

## MORE INFO

- [Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [City of Abilene Environmental Recycling Center](#)
- [City of Abilene - Waste Disposal Information](#)
- [Texas 8-1-1 Call Before You Dig](#)
- [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#)
- [National Municipal Stormwater Alliance](#)
- [National Assoc. of Clean Water Agencies](#)
- [Texas Dept. of Agriculture](#)



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## YARD MAINTENANCE

Save Our Waterways  
Clean Water, Healthy Life

Stormwater Services Division

# KEEP YOUR YARD MAINTAINED AND YOUR CREEKS CLEAN

## YARD MAINTENANCE CAN IMPACT WATER QUALITY

Lawn care, landscaping, and pest control practices can be major contributors to stormwater pollution. Rain or melting snow flows across yards, rooftops, paved areas, and soil, carrying dirt, leaves, grass clippings, garden chemicals, and anything else in its path to creeks via our streets and into storm drains.

## THE IMPACT

Nutrients and other chemicals leached from yard waste can cause excessive algae growth, toxin production that kills fish and robs organisms from the oxygen they need to survive.

## YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Look around your home and find the nearest storm drain - tell your neighbors that it empties into the nearest creek! Here are some simple things you can do to protect water quality while keeping your yard maintained.



## LAWN MAINTENANCE

- Mow your lawn often enough so no more than one-third of the length of grass is removed.
- Either leave the grass clippings on the lawn or compost.
- Sweep grass off of all paved areas and back onto the lawn or bag it.
- Only spot treat for weeds or not at all.

## WATERING

- Do not overwater. Excessive runoff wastes both water and any chemicals you may have added to your yard.
- Think about directing downspouts to a depressed area or a garden bed so the water soaks into your yard instead of rushing out to the street.

## FERTILIZING & YARD WASTE

- Fertilize only when necessary or not at all.
- Do not fertilize if you think it might rain in the next day or two.
- Home compost yard waste or participate in our [city drop-off program](#).

## MULCH & LANDSCAPE MATERIALS

- Fertilize only when necessary or not at all.
- Do not fertilize if you think it might rain in the next day or two.
- Home compost yard waste or participate in our [city drop-off program](#).

## YARD DESIGN

- Consider installing a rain garden and directing your roof drains to it.
- Incorporate swales and berms to your landscape so runoff is contained and doesn't leave your yard.
- Consider using bricks, flagstone, gravel and other porous materials instead of impervious surfaces, such as sidewalks and driveways.

## CREEKS & DITCHES

- Keep a mowing and fertilizing buffer around ditches and creeks so that erosion and nutrient loading are minimized.